

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 186
By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to designate April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, child abuse is a societal problem that affects nearly every community within our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, sadly, the number of abused or neglected children continues to increase every year; child abuse and neglect include physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and physical neglect, all of which may be the result of a multiplicity of such social problems as family dysfunction, mental health problems, substance abuse, inadequate parenting skills, teen pregnancy, homelessness, family violence, crime, and poverty; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of the General Assembly should pause to recognize the serious problem of child abuse and the lasting effects it has on our state's most precious resource--our children; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of community and state leadership to establish prevention and support mechanisms for children and parents in order to stop the cycle of abuse that destroys the lives of those affected; and

WHEREAS, the designation of April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" is an effort to raise awareness of child abuse and to encourage communities throughout our state to create partnerships among social service agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community and to become involved in helping parents raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we hereby designate the month of April 2005 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.